

Classification Review Procedure

CRP 79-33

8 Aug 79

INFORMATION INDICATIVE OF QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES

1. A serious responsibility rests on every reviewer to be alert during classification reviews of CIA material for any information on activities which have been challenged as questionable, or which appear to provide evidence of possible wrongdoing or of suggestions and recommendations for actions which could have led to wrongdoing had they been carried out. This may include information not only on actions readily recognizable as potentially illegal, but also on any which the majority of Americans might view as immoral, unethical, or reprehensible according to present standards and beliefs. The Agency has been criticized for alleged involvement in attempted assassinations, testing drugs on unwitting subjects, seeking ways to affect human behavior (often referred to under the umbrella cryptonym MKULTRA), mail censorship, operations involving student organizations, and the operational use of American journalists.

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2. Reviewers should be alert to information concerning such activities as well as others which might also be considered questionable. All such cases should be noted, even those involving recommendations turned down and never implemented. This often happened, and in one sense has a positive connotation for the Agency by demonstrating that such activities were not acceptable as a policy matter even at the time. Reviewers should be particularly alert to the following list of cryptonyms, names of companies, and types of activity set forth below. While the great majority of activities conducted by the Agency in these areas have been legitimate, information concerning them is of special interest because of questions raised about them in the past:

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3. If information concerning such activities is uncovered, CRD must ensure that the responsible Directorate or Office is advised so that action can be taken to notify senior Agency management and intelligence oversight bodies as appropriate. Reviewers finding such information, or having questions as to whether certain information might fit within the defined categories, should bring it to the attention of the Branch Chief representing the Directorate involved. Branch Chiefs will be responsible for advising C/CRD and taking action as may be required with the appropriate Directorate or other component. Should a document requiring transmission to a component be found, the CRD Branch Chief concerned will forward a copy thereof to that component and obtain a receipt. ☐

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Chief,  
Classification Review Division

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